

COUNTRY	Albania	REPORT NO.	
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Military Installations in Tirana.

25X1

1. The Tirana military post headquarters, referred to as a garrison [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted], is bounded by two southbound streets in the direction of, and 150 to 180 meters north of, Skanderbeg Square. Its south side faces a dairy which, in turn, is next to a motion picture theater. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] the post was commanded by Major General Spiro Moisiu in the summer of 1949. [redacted] he was not regarded as a reliable Communist and, therefore, was retarded in his military career by being appointed military post commander.

2. Prior to early 1950 the High Command of the Albanian Armed Forces in Tirana was referred to as the Commando Generale [redacted] 25X1  
located about 1.5 km south of Skanderbeg Square on the southbound avenue, 20 meters wide, and was bordered on the east by Tirana stadium. The main building, on the south side of a large rectangular square, includes a central section about 40 meters high and two three-story wings about 20 meters high. A low building is attached to the rear of the main building. The basement of the west wing housed the signal-communications center, and the basement of the east wing the kitchen, heating plant, and a mess hall. Except for one large auditorium, all rooms on the second through sixth floor were offices. Officers with ranks ranging from lieutenant to general and male civilians were observed in these rooms. It was estimated that not less than 150 officers were assigned to this installation, including 30 to 40 field-grade officers and 5 or 6 generals. The offices of the generals were on the front side of the fourth floor of the central section of the main building. The only high-ranking Soviet officer observed in the building had his office on the fifth floor of the central section. Signal troops, kitchen personnel, and the crews of three medium AA guns were billeted in the building at the rear of the main building. In 1949 the 37-mm AA guns were emplaced on a hill, about 60 meters south of the rear building. Billets for a motorcycle and motor transport platoon were adjacent to the west wing of the main building. The platoon included 4 or 5 motorcycle messengers and some US or British-made jeeps [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] The High Command was guarded by a company of People's Police, whose billets were southwest of the main building. Sentries, armed with Soviet submachine guns and pistols, stood guard outside and on each floor of the main building.

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2



3. Prior to the spring of 1950, the so-called General Staff of the Albanian Army was located in one of the buildings of the officer candidate school which was on a road leading from Tirana in a northeasterly direction. Mainly field-grade officers and about three generals were seen in the building.

[redacted] there were Soviet officers among them. Prior to late 1949, many motorcycle messengers were observed. In April and May 1949 dust-covered and exhausted motorcycle messengers frequently arrived there.

[redacted] these messengers came from the direction of the Greek border. [redacted] the operations of the units along the border were directed from this building at that time.

4. The artillery inspectorate was in a villa surrounded by a large garden south-east of the offices of the High Command, on the south side of a street parallel to the main avenue running south from Skanderbeg Square. In early 1950, Lieutenant Colonel Irvan Petschani or Petschikani was inspector of artillery.

[redacted] a Soviet colonel was attached to the inspectorate.

5. The Tirana officer candidate school was located on the south side of a road which ran east-northeast from the city, about 2.3 km from the Tirana water-works at the foot of the surrounding hills. The school covered an area of at least 400 x 300 meters. The school was established by the Italians and included two officer candidate mess buildings with kitchens, each 50 x 15 meters; one three-story classroom building, about 80 x 20 meters; one single-story officer-instructors' mess building, about 90 x 20 meters; one clubhouse for officer-instructors and trainees, on the summit of a low hill; one two-story unidentified building, about 40 x 15 meters, one brick building with a gabled roof, about 80 x 20 meters, constructed in 1949 and 1950 and still vacant; one two-story building, about 80 x 25 meters, housing the telephone exchange and administrative offices and connected with the city by overhead lines; four or five instruction halls, each about 60 x 15 meters; and an undetermined number of storehouses and garages. All buildings were brick structures with flat concrete roofs. One three-story building, about 100 x 20 meters, housed the so-called Albanian Army General Staff. [redacted]

Albanian officers who were to be instructed in command and general staff duty and trained in the use of special weapons were sent to the U.S.S.R. [redacted]

[redacted] Albanian field-grade officers have already received such training in the U.S.S.R. The officer instructors held ranks ranging from lieutenant up to major. Approximately 20 percent of the staff were Soviet officers. In the spring of 1950, various units were represented by the officer candidates, most of them NCOs. Red and green-bordered epaulets, with red and green stripes respectively, were observed. Troops wearing green-bordered epaulets were medical personnel. The trainees were given theoretical instruction and trained with rifles and light and heavy machine guns. Seven or eight groups of men, each group commanded by a lieutenant, were frequently observed engaged in field training and close-combat drill.

6. The Dilliria Barracks, adjoining the officer candidate school on the west, covered an area of 400 x 70 meters and was composed of brick buildings. It was occupied by a signal unit of three or four companies prior to the spring of 1950. The troops still wore the old-style uniforms, but with new rank insignia, in the spring of 1950. They carried portable radio sets, field telephones, and other telephone line equipment. One or two radio trucks were occasionally observed in the barracks area. They were never seen with the troops engaged in field practice.

7. There was also a barracks installation, constructed by the Italians, at King Zog's Palace. It was on the west side of the asphalt highway, between Tirana and Elbasan, about 3 km distant from Skanderbeg Square. The brick buildings of the installation, all of which faced the road, included one guard and mess building about 60 x 15 meters; one repair shop and garage, about 80 x 10 meters, which, however, did not contain any motor vehicles; one building, apparently a storehouse, about 80 x 8 meters; and one large U-shaped barracks building with various annexes. In the spring of 1950, the interior of the main building was being reconditioned. Prior to April 1950, the People's Police headquarters was located in the installation. The headquarters was commanded by a major general, who had been promoted to this rank in the spring of 1949. [redacted]

[redacted] the general was one of the prime minister's favorites. From 80

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3

to 100 officers and about 20 women wearing civilian clothes arrived from Tirana by truck daily for duty in the installation. All officers and enlisted personnel wore a large red cloth star, in some cases with a gold edge, on their upper left sleeves. In the spring of 1949, only a few officers wore the new uniform.

8. Another barracks installation, adjoining the area of the barracks installation at King Zog's Palace on the south, was in the so-called Sauk, about 300 meters west of the road to Elbasan. It includes various unidentified buildings and six two-story brick buildings, about 80 x 20 meters. In May 1949, troops wearing hospital clothing and army ambulances were observed in the installation which was referred to as a hospital [redacted] 25X1

9. A billeting area referred to as the Shumbini Barracks was 1 or 2 km from Skanderbeg Square on both sides of the road between Tirana and Kavaqe, a town 28 km southwest of Tirana. The billeting area contained two barracks installations, one of which, about 800 x 500 meters and located south of the road, included 30 to 35 buildings, while the other installation, about 180 meters square and located north of the road, consisted of about six buildings. In March 1950, an artillery unit was located in the southern installation. The motor vehicles and horse-drawn vehicles operating in the area were marked with crossed-gun-barrel insignia. In March 1950, guns of about 105-mm and guns of another type, which were [redacted] 75-mm AT guns, were observed. The occupants of the northern installation were not identified.

10. A barracks installation was also located 2 or 3 km west-northwest of Skanderbeg Square, on the north side of the road to Durres, a city about 30 km west of Tirana. In order from east to west, the installation contained a billeting and administration area, a repair shop, eight tank garages, and a dump for unserviceable vehicles. The repair shop consisted of five workshops, each about 80 x 15 meters, a foundry, and an administration building. It repaired and overhauled motor vehicles of the Albanian Armed Forces. Its personnel was estimated at about 100 troops who were quartered in the billeting area to the east. The tank garages measured about 15 x 6 meters each, had flat roofs, and doors of corrugated sheet metal on one of the narrow sides. In early 1946, 12 or 13 tanks, referred to as T-24s [redacted], were observed in the garages. The tank crews were believed to be housed in other billets, since no troops other than repair shop personnel were seen in the installation.

11. A fuel depot was on the north side of the road to Durres, 600 to 800 meters west of the barracks installation mentioned in paragraph 10. To the north, the Tirana-Durres railroad line ran past the depot at a distance of 200 to 250 meters. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] The depot area was about 200 x 30 meters, with the long side fronting on the road, and was surrounded by a fence. In 1946 three empty, unpainted, and rusty steel containers, each 30 to 40 meters long and about 6 meters in diameter, were observed in the depot. The depot included two wooden sheds with concrete floors. In 1949, motor vehicles of the Albanian Armed Forces, loaded with cans and drums, were occasionally observed at the depot.

12. A fuel depot where Albanian troops were observed, is about 7 km from Tirana, on the right side of the road to Selit. In late April 1950, numerous 200-liter fuel drums, camouflaged between shrubs and trees, were observed.

13. An ammunition depot was located 4 or 5 km west of Elbasan, about 200 meters before the first bend in the winding road to Tirana. The depot, consisting of several galleries, (sic) was guarded when was observed [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] The galleries were located on the left side of, and about 1 km from, the road near a church with a ruined cloister.

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General Information on the Albanian Armed Forces.

14. Prior to the end of April 1950, the Albanian Armed Forces consisted of an army, a small navy assigned to coast guard duty, but no air force. The armed forces were under the jurisdiction of Enver Hoxha, chief of state and prime minister. The supreme headquarters of the armed forces was located in Tirana and was referred to as the High Command. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] the Tirana military post was the largest in the country. The troops in the capital included infantry, artillery, tank, AT artillery, and signal personnel. Prior to April 1951, no Soviet or other foreign troop units were seen in Albania. However, numerous Soviet instructor-officers of all ranks were observed.
15. In recent years, the Albanian uniform was changed. In early 1950, most units of the troops in Tirana were equipped with the new uniform. The old uniform was grayish-green, with German-style slash pockets in the blouse. The new uniform is grayish-brown, with Soviet-style stand-up collar, visor-type service cap, steel helmet, and Soviet rank insignia. Albanian generals have gold epaulets without longitudinal stripes, red piping on their trousers, and red cuffs on their overcoats. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] a major general has two narrow parallel stripes on his trousers, and a lieutenant general one wide red stripe.
16. [redacted] most weapons were Soviet-made, although German and Italian models were still used to a small extent. Various types of motor vehicles, including Soviet, German, Italian, American, and British models, were observed with army units. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] did not observe any privately owned motor vehicles. 25X1
17. Not included in the army was the Mbretitjes Popullit (People's Police) which was directly subordinate to Prime Minister Hoxha. The People's Police headquarters was in the barracks installation on the road to Elbasan, a town 30 km southeast of Tirana. Members of the People's Police wore Albanian Army uniforms with a large red star, about 4 cm in diameter, on the upper left sleeve of the blouse. In addition, there was the Sigurimi (Secret Police) which [redacted] was absolutely loyal to the government, while only 50 percent of the People's Police were Communists adhering to the party doctrine.
18. Albanian privates [redacted] received a payment of 100 Lek per month, which is the equivalent of about 25 cents. Factory workers earned 300 to 400 Lek per day. For example, the price charged for 250 grams of tobacco or 1 kg of nuts was about 100 Lek.

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